

From: johnathanjames@netscape.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:13pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello..

I am writing to voice my vote AGAINST the proposed Microsoft Settlement. I do not think it goes far enough in keeping Microsoft from abusing the power that they obtained through their Windows monopoly. It is a monopoly simply because all they have to do is include a piece of software in Windows, and nobody can do anything to compete with that. Who is going to seek out other software that you would have to pay for if Windows gives it to you free. And for each person that they get in their camp that way, thats another person that the entire industry can no longer compete for.

It doesn't even have to be that they include something in Windows. With their Passport service, they could control the identifying information like account numbers, names and password, for every user of Windows. Then charge other websites to access that data. The ones that decide to pay, stay in business. The ones that don't pay, don't stay in business because Microsoft's customers move to other areas.

Their new licensing plan for Windows XP gives significant discounts to users if they agree not to use any other products by competing companies. This is the same thing they did with IBM and other PC manufacturers. They told them if they didn't install competing products on their PCs with Windows, that Microsoft would charge them less for each copy of Windows. But if they did put competing products on the PCs, Microsoft would charge them significantly more, thus making that companies PC non-competetive with other companies.

Their control of Windows gives them too much power and too much control over the marketplace. Restrictions must be put in to place that control this power that they have so that other companies can flourish in their own right, and have an equal playing field, not a field dictated by Microsoft.

The settlement does not go far enough! The public needs more.

Thank you,

Johnathan James